REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of December 28, 2006.

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Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action

All claims remaining in the application (claims 1-28) were rejected. Claims 1-5, 7, 10-18 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrisop (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0025343) in view of Ainsbury et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,924).

Claims 6, 9 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrisop and Ainsbury and further view of Trusheim (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,589).

Finally, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chrisop and Ainsbury and further in view of Satoh (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,446).

Claims 1-28 remain in the application. Independent claims 1, 12, 22 and 25 have been amended in order to further clarify the claimed disclosure. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to the application be withdrawn for at least the following reasons.

Brief Description

The disclosure relates to a method and system for a secured data file erasure and confirmation. The application claims a system and a method for providing a status report following the request of the destruction of files. The user or system administrator may select an overwrite pattern to be used to overwrite the data files so that no one can recover the erased data from the storage medium. Examples of the storage medium include a hard drive or removable disc. The system and method allows for flexible programmable sequences/patterns of overwrite to satisfy any overwrite requirements. These patterns may be taken from a stored pattern table and the number of patterns used may be dictated by system requirements as set by the customer. This system allows for data file eraser at discrete points in time to allow for unique, customized

overwrite of the data file.

Cited Art

The Examiner's primary reference is Chrisop. Chrisop is directed to a random bit mask generation for obscuring data on nonvolatile memory device. Chrisop is used for preventing unauthorized access to information temporarily stored in memory. Chrisop includes storing information to memory, conducting an operation on the information and automatically overwriting the information one or more times with a bit mask. The bit mask may be non-random or random sequence of binary values. Chrisop, however, is directed towards automatically overwriting the information with random sequences. The automatic overwrite may be in the form of automatic interruption overwrite or a completed overwrite which may be chosen by a user.

Examiner also cites Ainsbury. Ainsbury is an information platform that automates the collection of data. Ainsbury provides a method of organizing the library of information and provides analysis using multiple content types. The information platform is a client server implementation that is subdivided into four major sections; data retrieval; data classification and storage, information browsing, and desktop integration.

Claims as amended are patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

The Examiner will appreciate that independent claims 1, 12 and 25 have been amended. These claims were amended in order to further clarify the claimed disclosure in light of the Examiner's interview.

Claim 1 now includes a recitation that further clarifies the user input value. It is now stated that the user input value links to a unique set of patterns that when used to overwrite a data file meets an improved standard. This amendment gains support from paragraph 31 of the specification.

Chrisop, the Examiner's primary reference does not disclose such a feature. This user input value links to a set of patterns that is unique and is pre-approved to meet industry and/or security standards. Chrisop does not disclose a device that uses a user input value that is attached to a set of patterns that is unique for that user input value. The claimed disclosure references a 1:1 relationship to the user input value that

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links to the data file and the set of patterns that will be used to overwrite that data file. In this form, the user input value will use this unique set of patterns in order to meet an approved standard for the industry and/or security of the data file.

The Examiner states that Chrisop discloses a situation where a programmer may select either automatic interruption overwrite or complete overwrite for selected or all operations. This, however, cannot be equated to a user input value that links to a unique set of patterns that is used to overwrite a data file because the user input value is used to meet a specific standard, not one or two user preferences. Stated another way, the Examiner asserts that Chrisop discloses forming an overwrite of the data with a bit mask. The overwrite can be performed using one or two methods; the complete overwrite, or an automatic interruption overwrite. These methods control *when* the overwrite is performed, either once the power goes off or once the operation is complete (see Chrisop, paragraph 45). However, claim 1 discloses a system that references *how* the overwrite is performed, not when the overwrite is performed. In this instance, the number and order of patterns varies according to the user input value which is linked to a unique set of patterns that meets an improved standard for that data file.

As such, amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the references cited and is in proper condition for allowance. Furthermore, the addition of the other cited references do not cure this deficiency.

Claim 12 has also been amended in order to further clarify the claimed invention. Claim 12 now includes clarifying language for the stored pattern table. The stored pattern table is defined as containing a plurality of patterns which can be accessed according to an overwrite algorithm. Support for this amendment may be found in Figure 6, Box 208, and paragraph 36. The Examiner's references, Chrisop and Ainsbury do not disclose or suggest a stored pattern table in which patterns may be selected. It is thereby submitted that claim 12 is now in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the rejection to claim 12 be withdrawn.

The Examiner will also appreciate that claim 25 has been amended in order to further clarify the disclosure. Claim 25 now includes the concept of a pattern table which is not disclosed or even suggested by the prior art. Furthermore, claim 25 includes a definition for the user input value. The user input value links to a unique set

of patters that when used to overwrite a data file meets an improved standard. It is hereby requested that the rejection to claim 25 also be withdrawn.

All claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will appreciate that all remaining claims in the application (claims 2-11, 13-21, 23, 24 and 26-28) are either directly or indirectly dependent from one of the claims discussed above or in the previous office action response (claims 1, 12, 22 and 25). Because of the reasons stated above, all independent claims are currently in condition for allowance. Furthermore, all claims dependent therefrom are also in condition for allowance. It is hereby respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn for the claims remaining in the application.
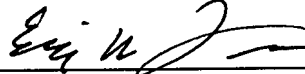
CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-28) are now in condition for allowance. The foregoing comments do not require unnecessary additional search or examination.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this Amendment F. However, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Deposit Account No. 24-0037.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he/she is hereby authorized to call Patrick R. Roche, at Telephone Number (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP

Patrick R. Roche, Reg. No. 29, 580
Eric W. Lee, Reg. No. 58,857
1100 Superior Avenue, Seventh Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114-2579
216-861-5582

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